



Washington Health Benefit Exchange

Addressing Social Determinants of Health

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Policy Committee Meeting

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Discussion Topics

- Review and Feedback on Statement of work for consultant
- Key complimentary efforts to coordinate



Board Equity Statement

*Equity is a fundamental pillar to the society we seek to build. The process of advancing toward equity will be disruptive and demands vigilance, dismantling deeply entrenched systems of privilege and oppression. We must focus our efforts on people and places where needs are greatest, especially communities of color, **and go beyond remedying a particular inequity to address all determinants of health.***

Our goal is that all Washingtonians have full and equal access to opportunities, power and resources to achieve their full potential.



WAHBE Context

WAHBE serves more than 1.8 million residents annually, with approximately 200,000 Washington residents enrolled in Qualified Health Plans (QHPs) and more than 1.6 million enrolled in Medicaid.

The *Healthplanfinder* supports customers who are applying for health and dental coverage, need to renew coverage, update their household information, or report other changes.

WAHBE conducts statewide and targeted outreach and marketing campaigns, promotes health literacy, and provides customer support services through a Spokane-based Call Center and statewide Navigator, Broker, and Tribal Assister programs.



Health Equity Goal

Goal: further improve the health of our customers and reduce persistent disparities by addressing SDOHs,

- Include factors like socioeconomic status, education, income security, neighborhood and physical environment, employment, and social support networks, as well as access to health care.

Action: Engage a knowledgeable resource to

1. Assess WAHBE's statutory authority, organizational strengths, internal resources, existing partnerships, and upcoming projects/strategic initiatives
2. Identify where WAHBE is uniquely positioned to contribute and how to leverage our key strengths



Engagement Purpose

Purpose:

- identify actionable, value-additive steps WAHBE can take in both the short and longer term, to more proactively address factors that will lead to improved customer health.

Approach: recommendations must be informed by:

- meaningful engagement with impacted communities,
- available equity data,
- a thorough understanding of WAHBE and complimentary state partner, local and national health equity efforts.



Scope of Services

- Research SDOH related efforts at the national, state and local level
- Analyze COVID-19 impacts
- Inventory Exchange organizational assets that could be leveraged (e.g., technology platform, in-person assistance program, data)
- Analyze quantitative and qualitative data to identify SDOH that directly impact Exchange consumers and priority activity areas.
- Consult on how SDOH could be further integrated into organizational DEI efforts



Draft Deliverables

- 1. Project Plan:** Meet with WAHBE staff and up to ten key stakeholders and adjust and finalize the proposed work plan.
- 2. Foundational Research for Environmental Scan:** Initial analysis completed in first ten weeks that provides a basis for early, informed discussion regarding priorities and focus areas.
- 3. Updated Environmental Scan and draft recommendations:** Building on foundational research, focus and analyze best practice and evidence-based approaches.
- 4. Present draft report and updated report.** Present and update findings to WAHBE, Exchange Board, and key stakeholders.
- 5. Action Plan.** Identify actionable, prioritized, value-additive steps for WAHBE. Develop an action plan and recommended next steps, with a focus on year 1 implementation efforts.



Key Activities to Coordinate

- Health Care Authority
 - Current concentrated work on health disparities in Medicaid transformation and emerging project
 - Overlap in population
 - Overlap in partners (Accountable Communities of Health)
 - Large health care purchaser
- Bree Collaborative
 - New project this year to research and recommend evidence informed strategies to address (1) the social determinants of health and (2) health disparities including from racism within and outside of clinical care.
 - Leverage group that develops community standards for health care (providers, carrier, employer, agencies, quality orgs)



Discussion Questions

- Are there any consultant activities or assessment areas that we missed?
- How can this work support the Board?
- What engagement do you want to have with the consultant?





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